

Applicant : Robert R. Turnbull et al.
Appln. No. : 09/827,304
Page : 37

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth an eighteen-way restriction requirement. In response to that restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group IX, which includes claims 116-126, with traverse.

By this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 2-115 (claim 1 was previously canceled), 142, 143, 145-148, and 187 without prejudice. Many of canceled claims 1-115 have been re-presented as new claims 201-306, but have been rewritten to depend from elected independent claim 116. Elected independent claim 116 and elected claims 121 and 122 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention. Claims 127, 137, 141, 144, 149-186, 188, 192, and 197-200 have been amended to depend from elected independent claim 116. Thus, with the exception of new claims 307-314, all of the other pending claims depend from elected independent claim 116.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have added new independent claims 307 and 312. Applicants respectfully submit that these two independent claims are appropriate to examine along with elected invention Group IX. New claims 308-311 depend from new independent claim 307, while new claims 313 and 314 both depend from new independent claim 312.

Applicant : Robert R. Turnbull et al.
Appln. No. : 09/827,304
Page : 38

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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